

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 10179 01 OF 02 071314Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 L-03 ISO-00 SP-02 IO-13 INR-10 SS-15
/059 W

-----038686 071424Z /45

P 070916Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2732

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 10179

STADIS//////////*//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA

REF: A) STATE 083084; B) BANGKOK 22759 OCT 77;
C) BANGKOK 30613 NOV 77

1. EMBASSY CANNOT IDENTIFY ANY INSTANCES, CERTAINLY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, IN WHICH OUR ACTIONS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS EITHER RESTRAINING DEA OR VETOING ITS OPERATIONS IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY. ONLY INSTANCES IN RECENT PAST WHICH WOULD BE EVEN ANALOGOUS INVOLVED APPROACH BY 5TH CIF COMMANDER TUAN IN SEPTEMBER, 1977, IN WHICH EMBASSY DID AUTHORIZE INITIAL DEA AGENT CONTACTS. AFTER REVIEWING RESULTS OF THESE CONTACTS, EMBASSY FORWARDED RECOMMENDATION TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES (REF B) INDICATING OUR VIEW THAT RISKS TO BROADER NARCOTICS AND OTHER POLICY INTERESTS WERE NOT WORTH THE POSSIBLE GAINS. THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS CONCURRED IN BY THE WASHINGTON AGENCIES, INCLUDING, WE ASSUME, DEA. IN NOV 1977, LI WEN HUAN, COMMANDER OF 3RD CIF MADE CONTACT WITH DEA INFORMANT, ALLEGEDLY TO PASS "INFORMATION OF VALUE". IN VIEW OF HIS CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, WE SAW LITTLE VALUE IN PURSUING THIS CONTACT, IN BELIEF IT WAS EFFORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 10179 01 OF 02 071314Z

TO EXTRACT FURTHER FUNDS FROM U.S. (REF C).

2. MORE GENERALLY, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH DEA HERE IS A CLOSE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ONE IN WHICH AMBASSADOR MEETS WEEKLY WITH REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND HIS DEPUTY TO REVIEW ACTIVITIES. DCM, AS NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, IS IN DAILY CONTACT WITH SENIOR DEA OFFICERS, AND IT IS OUR

IMPRESSION THAT THEY SHARE OUR VIEW THAT EMBASSY HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SUPPORTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING OF DEA ROLE AND OPERATIONS IN THAILAND. AS A MATTER OF COURSE, THERE ARE CANDID, INFORMAL EXCHANGES AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND DEA WITH REGARD TO OPERATIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE A FOREIGN POLICY CONNOTATION. FOR THEIR PART, DEA SENIOR OFFICERS HERE HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY SENSITIVE TO THIS POLICY ASPECT.

3. FOLLOWING IS AN ILLUSTRATIVE LISTING OF EMBASSY ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF DEA'S ROLE AND ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND. LISTING IS NOT ALL-INCLUSIVE BUT DOES HIGHLIGHT A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WHICH EXIST.

(A) EMBASSY SUPPORT FOR ASSIGNMENT OF FOREIGN NARCOTICS ATTACHES TO BANGKOK: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DEA HAD WANTED TO BROADEN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS REPRESENTATION IN BANGKOK. IN 1976 THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH OTHER AMBASSADORS WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN NARCOTICS AREA TO URGE THEM TO SUPPORT ASSIGNMENT OF NARCOTICS ATTACHES TO THAILAND. CONSEQUENTLY, HE AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS FOLLOWED UP REPEATEDLY, AND IN GOOD PART AS A RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS HERE THERE ARE NOW SIX NARCOTICS ATTACHES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES ASSIGNED TO BANGKOK. SENIOR DEA OFFICERS HERE WERE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S INTEREST AND COMMITMENT TO THIS PROGRAM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 10179 01 OF 02 071314Z

(B) INC PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF DEA; DEA PARTICIPATES FULLY IN THE MISSION NARCOTICS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND EMBASSY HAS BROUGHT DEA FULLY INTO THE PLANNING AND ORIENTATION OF OUR INC PROGRAM IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AREA. WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT OUR INC LAW ENFORCEMENT-FUNDED ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETELY SUPPORTIVE OF DEA ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND HAVE BEEN READY AS APPROPRIATE TO USE THESE PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN DEA'S KEY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SENIOR THAI POLICE OFFICERS IN THE NARCOTICS AREA. DEA INPUTS ARE SOUGHT CONSTANTLY AS WE DEVELOP OUR PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENT THEM.

(C) RESTRUCTURING OF THE RTG NARCOTICS EFFORT: OVER THE PAST YEARS DEA HAS IDENTIFIED AT VARIOUS TIMES MAJOR STRUCTURAL DEFECTS IN THE THAI ORGANIZATION FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, DEA HAD LONG URGED ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD. DEA OFFICERS HAD ALSO BELIEVED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A NARCOTICS DIVISION WITHIN THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TO STRENGTHEN THE THAI NARCOTICS EFFORT. IN BOTH CASES THE EMBASSY, AND THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY, WEIGHED IN AT HIGH GOVERNMENTAL

LEVELS IN SUPPORT OF THESE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES. IN THE CASE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A NARCOTICS DIVISION IN THE POLICE, THE AMBASSADOR IN THE PAST MONTH HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN QUICK TO REACT WHEN SENIOR DEA OFFICERS HAVE IDENTIFIED WHAT THEY SAW AS MAJOR ROADBLOCKS TO DEA EFFORTS IN THAILAND. FOR INSTANCE, THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM HAVE REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED WITH SENIOR THAI OFFICERS OUR CONCERNS WITH RECENT POOR PERFORMANCE OF THAI POLICE 7TH SUB-DIVISION, THE KEY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 10179 02 OF 02 071315Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 L-03 ISO-00 SP-02 IO-13 INR-10 SS-15
/059 W

-----038695 071425Z /45

P 070916Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2733

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 10179

STADIS////////////////////////////////

4. OTHER SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF EMBASSY ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF DEA PROGRAMS OR OBJECTIVES INCLUDE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THAI LEGAL PROCEDURES WITH REGARD TO NARCOTICS. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS ON MAJOR NARCOTICS CASES AND PERIODIC INFORMAL INTERVENTIONS AT REQUEST OF DEA IN SUPPORT OF SENIOR THAI POLICE OFFICERS WHOM DEA AND WE BELIEVE ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE RTG IN THE NARCOTICS AREA. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SENIOR DEA OFFICERS HERE WHO FULLY AGREED WITH ITS CONTENTS.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, INTERAGENCY COOPERATION, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO10179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780150-0899
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780483/aaaacsbk.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84acd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 83084, 78 BANGKOK 22759
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3046885
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA
TAGS: SNAR, TH, DEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84acd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014